

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00985 051025Z

11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 SAM-01 /105 W

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R 050925Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1529

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0985

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS LY

SUBJECT: QADHAFI ON CENTER STAGE DURING SEPTEMBER 1
CELEBRATIONS

1. AS CELEBRATIONS OF REGIME'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
DRAW TO A CLOSE, ONE THING IS CLEAR -- COLONEL QADHAFI
IS BACK ON CENTER STAGE, AND IS AGAIN ACTING AS CHIEF
OF STATE IN PUBLIC. HE HAS BEEN MEETING WITH DELE-
GATIONS, ATTENDING RECEPTIONS, AND PRESIDING OVER
MILITARY PARADE AND INAUGURATION OF NEW REFINERY AT
ZAWIA. (IT IS NOT IN FACT READY TO BEGIN PRODUCTION,
BUT THIS HAS BEEN GLOSSED OVER.) HE HAS APPEARED ON
TELEVISION PROGRAM WITH OTHER RCC MEMBERS, AND GIVEN
PRESS CONFERENCE. HIS PERIOD OF WITHDRAWAL, WHICH
HE HAS BEEN EDGING OUT OF SLOWLY, SEEMS NOW TO BE AT AN END.

2. ALSO OF INTEREST HAS BEEN REAPPEARANCE OF RCC
MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLICLY ACTIVE FOR SOME
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00985 051025Z

MONTHS, NOTABLY MAJOR ABDELMUN'IM AL-HUNI, WHO HAS

BEEN REPORTED IN EXILE IN CAIRO. AL HUNI ATTENDED PARADE SEPT. 1 AND WAS AT QADHAFT'S SIDE IN SEVERAL MEETINGS SEPT. 2 AND 3. ONLY TWO OF ELEVEN RCC MEMBERS HAVE NOT BEEN IN EVIDENCE DURING CELEBRATIONS, MAJORS QARAWI AND NAJM.

3. FROM LIBYAN POINT OF VIEW, EVENTS HAVE GONE WELL. FOREIGN DELEGATIONS AND ORDINARY LIBYANS ALIKE WERE IMPRESSED WITH TANKS, PLANES, AND MISSILES ON DISPLAY DURING PARADE. PROPAGANDA HAS FOCUSED ON REGIME'S DOMESTIC ACHIEVEMENTS. THIS MOOD OF SATISFACTION WILL WEAR OFF QUICKLY AFTER SAME OLD PROBLEMS OF MISMANAGEMENT AND RELIANCE ON FOREIGNERS BECOME EVIDENT AGAIN, HOWEVER.

4. MEANWHILE, THERE WAS NEW MOVE SEPT. 4 IN GOVERNMENT BY-THE-PEOPLE--SPECIFICALLY BY TRADITIONALLY HARD-HEADED CITIZENS OF ZAWIA--WHICH WAS BILLED AS AN "ESCALATION OF THE POPULAR REVOLUTION". WESTERN JOURNALISTS WERE TAKEN TO ZAWIA TO SEE "POPULAR MASSES" MARCH INTO TOWN HALL AND OTHER OFFICES AND DEPOSE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF POPULAR COMMITTEE. THERE ARE TO BE NEW ELECTIONS SOON THROUGHOUT ZAWIA GOVERNATE TO RID POPULAR COMMITTEES OF "OPPORTUNISTS", IT WAS ANNOUNCED. THIS WILL PROBABLY BE REPEATED IN OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS IN DAYS TO COME, AND MAY WELL SIGNAL NEW ELECTIONS FOR ALL POPULAR COMMITTEES THROUGHOUT LIBYA.
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